

III

BOHEMIA — DEUDGEEY —FIEST BOOKS

1860-1866

A clerkship at the Docks Napoleon — Peregrinations through the Quartier Latin — Zola joined there by Cezanne — He lives in a glass cage — "L'Amoureuse Comedie" —Poetry and poverty — "Genesis" — Spring rambles — The Quartier Latin in 1860 — Love in a garret — " La Confession de Claude," and the den in the Hue Soufflot — The fairy of one's twentieth year — Terrible straits— "Playing the Arab " — " Good for nothing " — Help from Dr. Boudet — Zola is engaged by M. Hachette and emerges from Bohemia — Hachette's authors and Zola — Fresh Peregrinations — Short stories — Zola's *' band " — His correspondence with Antony Valabregue— " Contes & Ninon " — Zola weaned from idyl and fable — "Madame Bovary " — Duality of Zola's nature — His improved circumstances — Newspaper articles — The lesson of " Henriette Marf~ chal " — " La Confession de Claude " published — Zola's opinion of it — Barbey d'AureVilly's attack and a threatened prosecution — Zola quits Hachette's, and refuses to pander to fools.

AFTEE choosing a scientific career, and then aspiring to poetic fame as great as that of Hugo or Musset, to sink even momentarily to a junior clerkship, worth sixty francs a month,¹ at the " Docks " in the Eue de la Douane, was hard indeed. Yet such became Zola's fate. Some who have written of the episode have fallen into various errors. An American account says that the young man became a dock labourer; an English biographer has referred to his place of employment as a business house. But on consulting any plan of Paris as it was in 1860 or thereabouts, it will be

seen that a great entrepot, with offices for the
collection of
the state customs and the municipal dues, then
adjoined the

* £2 8s.; or about \$12.